

# Zion's Herald and Wesleyan Journal.

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For Zion's Herald.

## PORPHYRY, THE CRITIC.

The next distinguished literary assailant of the gospel was Porphyry, a native of Tyre, born A.D. 233. Exhibiting a thirst for knowledge, a quickness of mental perception, combined with indications of intellectual vigor, his father early introduced him to the study of literature and philosophy. His first instructor is said to have been Origen, a celebrated Christian preacher and controversialist; but of the truth of this statement there are many doubts.

Soon transferred to Athens, he became the pupil of the less celebrated Longinus, whose reputation for wisdom and skill in instruction brought him scholars from all parts. Under his tuition he received that early moulding which subsequently secured such vigor of thought and elegance of style. Bearing originally the name of Melech, which in the Syriac signifies king, Longinus substituted that of Porphyry, the Greek term for purple, a color worn in the East by princes. Hence he was sometimes called *Basileus*, or king.

At the age of thirteen he was transported to Rome for the purpose of studying philosophy under Plotinus, a man endowed with an extraordinary understanding and vigorous imagination, who as a teacher of the eclectic philosophy, capable of felicitously unfolding the sublime "ideas" of Plato, had obtained an extended reputation. Porphyry remained with him six years, and became so thoroughly attached to his master, and so well versed in the principles of his system of doctrine, that he was regarded by Plotinus as one of the chief ornaments of his school, and was frequently employed by him to refute the objections of opponents, and to instruct his less mature disciples in the more difficult parts of his writings; and was even employed to methodize and correct his works.

So closely did he apply himself to these studies that his health became impaired, and a cloud, settling into confirmed melancholy, was cast over his mind. While in this state he formed a resolution of putting an end to his life, hoping by this method, according to the Platonic teaching, to release the soul from the prison of the body. From this mad design, however, he was dissuaded by his master, who advised a voyage to Sicily. Complying with this advice, Porphyry recovered his bodily vigor and serenity of mind.

Remaining for a length of time in this new retreat, his master died, and he after that returned to Rome to teach philosophy. But his mind again lost its balance, for he pretended to be not only a philosopher "endued with superior wisdom, but a divine person, favored with supernatural communications from Heaven." He avers that in the sixtieth year of his age he had a vision of the Supreme Intelligence, the God superior to all gods, without an image—the result, as Augustine thought of the agency of evil spirits, but more probably an entire fiction, employed to offset the supernatural elements of Christianity, or a mere phantasm of an overwrought brain. He died about A.D. 304. Of his numerous works few remain complete. Against the Christians he wrote fifteen separate treatises, all of which perished by the order of Theodosius, save the fragments imbedded in the ecclesiastical historians and the Christian apologists.

Though Porphyry flourished a hundred years later than Lucian and Celsus, his works are regarded as part of the grand attack of heathenism against the rising fortunes of the gospel. If not the death-struggle, he was a vigorous effort to retrieve a sinking cause, to turn back the tide of new ideas, and to reanimate in the minds of the people the principles of an effete religious system, of a waning and insufficient philosophy.

As already indicated in this sketch, Porphyry was a man of distinguished powers of mind and of high culture, of a calibre altogether above that of Lucian and Celsus. Augustine styles him "the most learned of the philosophers." Lucian, though endowed with keen wit, was a carefree jester, and Celsus, in his attacks on the gospel, often reminds us of the vulgar gibes and ribald remarks of Thomas Paine; but nothing of this is found in Porphyry. Speaking in the name of philosophy, he assumes a dignity, an elevation of tone, an apparent candor in the treatment of his subject akin to that of the judge, who is supposed impartially to survey the whole field of evidence, and to give weight to no doubtful statements, to no specious arguments. Undoubtedly honest in his convictions and in his attachment to the philosophy of his master, he brought the resources of a great, a cultured mind to bear against the more vulnerable points of the Christian system, testing it by weapons of the highest temper. If able to pass this new and severer ordeal, the Christian foundation may be securely trusted.

Porphyry enjoyed a vantage ground in the school of philosophy to which he belonged. Platonism, as already suggested, approximated more nearly than any of the other philosophic systems of antiquity to the elevated teachings of the gospel. But during the past century or two, while Christianity had been spreading through the Roman world, this philosophy under the teachings of Plotinus had been drawing nearer to the doctrines of the New Testament, insomuch that a casual observer the two streams of thought and speculation seemed likely to unite and flow on in a single channel.

Like Christianity, Platonism opened a spiritual world superior to that of sense, and revealed a Supreme Being, if not absolutely free, yet capable of giving shape to the visible as the architect of the universe. It awakened also in man the consciousness of the supernatural, the divine, so that man was attracted towards the supreme spiritual existence, was permitted to have cognition of fellowship with it; not absorbed on the one hand in the depths of the infinite spirit, nor sunk on the other into the material. The one radical point of separation between the philosophy of the schools and that of the church seemed to be the views of matter entertained by the former—that it was eternal, and the seat of evil in opposition to God. But even this view was softened as the system came in contact with the gospel. Plotinus held that the evil principle was only apparent, and that only God had a substantial and permanent existence.

The opposers concluded that as the teachings of Christianity could not be entirely ignored or dispensed, the philosophical system must be brought upon the same platform as a rival of the gospel. Hence, like modern pantheists, they held that there was but one absolute religion expressed in many forms and creeds, each containing fragments of the truth, but no one able completely to set forth the divine ideal. On this point Plotinus, a profoundly meditative man, expresses himself in this manner: "As the sun, moon and stars, earth and sea, are common to all, while they have different names in different nations, so likewise, while there is but one system of the world which is supreme and one governing Providence whose ministering powers are set over all men, yet there have been given to these by the laws of different nations different names and modes of worship; the holy symbols which these nations employed were in some cases more obscure, in others clearer;

but in all cases alike failed of being perfectly safe guides in the contemplation of the divine."

The views here so adroitly stated were those of Porphyry, echoed in our own age by the school of Theodore Parker; men who disown Christianity by quietly thrusting it into the background, as though all had consented to place it among the exploded ideas of the age, and by introducing prominently upon the stage all the wild forms of religion conjured up by the human imagination, from that of Confucius down to the Revelations of Joe Smith, the Mormon, as though Christianity reposed on the same foundations as these erroneous systems. A man of great capacity, of mature and wide culture, indoctrinated in these views of eclecticism, Porphyry displayed very great ability in the selection of his mode of attack on the gospel. The open and direct assault on the system made by his predecessors, had failed, because the gospel contains grand principles and teachings that find a response in the depths of the human soul, and that cannot be suppressed by any amount of opposition. Authorized by the human constitution, they will ever maintain a place in the religious systems of men. Lucian and Celsus, by opposing them, only defeated themselves. Porphyry was wise enough and cool enough to avoid this rock. The great ethical and religious principles of the evangelical scheme he admitted to be correct, and of grave importance; but then it was claimed that those of a similar import were embodied in his own philosophy.

In the preceding controversy it had been ascertained by the opposition that the strong works behind which the church was entrenched could not be carried by direct assault, as the artillery of the gospel swept in front every rod of the ground. Every such attempt having been repulsed, Porphyry, as a shrewd strategist, determined to try a flank movement against those bulwarks, to attempt to disprove, not the substance of Christianity, but the form of it, the reverse of that pursued by his predecessors. By them, the facts, the records of the gospel were acknowledged, but the facts were held to be wrong, and to have been produced by an unauthorized agency, to have been the work of magic or charms; now the lapses of a hundred years has convinced the enemy that the method of attack affording any hope of success is the direct one against the authority, the inspiration of the documents of the gospel. If by the trenchant knife of criticism, these supports could be cut away, the system would be left to sink down upon a level with philosophy, with all merely human systems of speculation. Such was the mode of attack adopted by this distinguished unbeliever.

Pushed from the centre, the vital sections, he and his compatriots are compelled at last to expend their strength on the outskirts of the gospel. The reader will not fail to notice that the cycle bounded by these early enemies of the cross, is precisely the one re-traveled by our modern infidels. Beginning after the Reformation by a strong movement against the very heart of Christianity, we find them to-day, under the guise of Rationalism or Pantheism, railing away at the mere outskirts—the records of the gospel.

As intimated already, Porphyry was a voluminous writer, having prepared fifteen treatises against Christianity. As these have perished, we can judge of them only by the fragments preserved in other authors, nearly or quite all of which have been collected by Lardner.

From these we learn that in his first work, he endeavored to show the merely human origin of the Scriptures from the real or apparent discrepancies therein; and exhibited the dispute of Paul and Peter as an instance of the human elements mingled in the Christian teaching. His third book, treating of the allegorical interpretations introduced by Origen, bore only remotely on his main design. However just his remarks on that topic, they did not disprove the Scriptures, for the reason that the interpretations of the church, having no bidding authority as the mere utterances of uninspired men, could not disprove the sacred record itself.

His fourth book treated of the Pentateuch and of Jewish antiquities. But the most important of his writings, having prepared fifteen treatises against Christianity. As these have perished, we can judge of them only by the fragments preserved in other authors, nearly or quite all of which have been collected by Lardner.

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That Porphyry was a man of ability, is seen in the fact that his objections to Christianity are not those lying on the surface, of a trivial character; but the deeper and more inexplicable difficulties of the Scriptures which have engaged the highest interests of the church to examine and explain.

He was not an easy master to write a reply to. He gave one reply to Celsus and another to the church; but the three separate replies to Porphyry of Methodius, Eusebius and Appollonius, but insufficiently solved the intricate and deep problems proposed by Porphyry. Time was required to heal the wound he had made in the church.

He had made a deep impression on the church in the fact that to all Christians his name became hateful, odious, the synonym for all that is vile and dangerous in unbelief, like that of Turk or Moslem or Papist in later ages. When Constantine wished to blacken the reputation of the Arians, he only had to attach to them the epithet of Porphyry. That name carried in it a satanic stamp, a heavy curse, able to sink to irretrievable infamy any individual or sect who bore it.

For Zion's Herald.

**LIBERALITY OF VIEWS.**

How we admire true liberality in sentiments. How noble is this trait! It is the opposite of bigotry. It is large, and generous, and good. It dwells with goodness and wisdom.

But there is a dangerous extreme against which we need to guard in these days. I mean an *undiscriminating* liberality, which is slack and easy in respect to moral principles and Christian doctrines, looking with equal complacency upon truth and error, religion and irreligion, Christianity and infidelity. Such a liberality ignores moral distinctions, secretly strikes a deadly blow at the foundations of moral obligation, and virtually declares that there is no positive knowledge of right and wrong. Such a liberal spirit is abroad, making many specious plaus. It should be distinguished

from genuine liberality, for it is the legitimate offspring of bigotry. It bears her image, and breathes her spirit. And nothing is more illiberal than that pseudo liberality. It is very severe against everything that does not pronounce its Shibboleth, and especially against evangelical Christianity. It is a subtle deception.

That which we recommend is a *discriminating* liberality; which, while it allows freedom of opinion and inquiry, at the same time does not tamely surrender great and manifest truths, nor vilify our moral convictions by wicked compromises with evil and error. Every mind in a normal and healthy condition will discriminate. It will be beautifully poised upon right; and while it possesses true elasticity, it will not be loose and unmanly. Regulated by such a principle, the mind will find ample scope for all its powers. It will grow; and with its growth it will put on new beauty, strength, and lustre.

D. DORCHESTER.

For Zion's Herald.

## WEARER.

Nearest? yes, nearer, now.  
The silent, solemn sea  
Which rolls between my weary heart,  
Jerusalem! and thee.

I nearer to the boatman now,  
He soon will shout "Away!"  
O to my home beyond the sea  
I'm nearer every day.

Some days are dreary, some bring tears,  
Some, undefined regret,  
While on some golden hours, thank God!  
Hope's甘美な歌声, thank you!

But whether days be dark or bright,  
The moments swift or slow,  
Time stops not in his steady sight,  
And onward still we go.

On the green hillsides of yon shore  
Our loved ones calmly wait,  
And angel forms to welcome us  
Half open heaven's gate.

O, rapturous thought! that rest, sweet rest,  
Will soon to us be given,  
Since every hour the child of God  
Is drawing nearer heaven.

O, Saviour! as we thus draw near  
The throne, the crystal sea,  
The holy throng, the heavenly choir,  
We're drawing nearer Thee.

Near the hour when we, whose feet  
The olive slopes ne'er trod,  
Or shores of far Galilee  
Where walked the Son of God,

Shall see His face, shall hear His voice,  
Shall touch that pierced hand,  
And on the bough, thorn-crowned for us,  
Shall gaze, and silent stand.

O thought to cheer my weary way,  
With welcome radiance come,  
I'm drawing nearer home! In Reading, Mass. Mrs. P. A. Hanaford.

For Zion's Herald.  
**NIGGER.**

This word conveys meanings that cannot be expanded into twenty sentences; it conveys feelings before which arguments are powerless, for it reflects a sneer?" It is Slavery's fossil track, a silent trail of the gospel's curse, that will sell, rather than will it sell, and to diffuse it among the people of the earth than among the human race.

The colored man is everywhere elbowed from the path. The word "Nigger" says, "Let him sit apart, travel apart, work and worship apart."

The laborer refuses to let in the field, to work at the bench, by the side of his colored brother; the girl in the factory declines to sit by the side of her colored sister.

The real estate owner is loath to admit a colored family into his tenements; the master carpenter will not take a colored apprentice; the storekeeper will not employ a colored girl, to sell ribbons across his counter. I know of a colored boy who has honorably graduated from the Connecticut common school, who has driven in vain to find work in a large manufacturing town where labor is in such demand that the wheels run day and night. I know of a Christian young lady, more capable and efficient than the average of factory operatives (though colored in skin), who engaged work in a factory, and was obliged to leave because her colorless fellow operatives refused the proprietor that they would not work by her side. There is not a society in the New England Conference that would employ a colored person, though he were as devoted to the cause of the gospel as the Apostle John and as eloquent as Apollo. Most New England congregations would be shocked at the mere suggestion.

From these we learn that in his first work, he endeavored to show the merely human origin of the Scriptures from the real or apparent discrepancies therein; and exhibited the dispute of Paul and Peter as an instance of the human elements mingled in the Christian teaching. His third book, treating of the allegorical interpretations introduced by Origen, bore only remotely on his main design.

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from us, believe in our republican institutions, toll for them, pray for them, yes, cheerfully and breathes her spirit. Let the bloody ramparts of Petersburg and Fort Wagner bear witness! To our starving captives and ragged fugitives was not the glimpse of a dusky face like the vision of an angel? Was ever music so sweet to their ears as was the negro dialect among the nests of treason? Yet how grudgingly we dole out to them the reward we so solemnly promised; while the traitors, who loathe our free principles; the traitors, whose hands drip with the blood of our kindred; who spent a generation in whetting their swords for treason, and then cut down our brave boys on every foot of land from the Potomac to the Mississippi, and from the Ohio to the Gulf; who starved them to death at Andersonville, Salisbury and Belle Isle; or sent them back to us shattered wrecks or chattering idlers; these traitors, who would exalt at the opportunity to do the like again, we are all ready to waive as to our arms! Let us be merciful and forgive to the fallen and repentant, but God forbid that we should spurn from us those that have never shamed against us!

"God hath made of one blood all nations of men;" this is the text on which American civilization is destined by Providence to furnish a commentary. This is our sublime calling. O, may we hear and obey! If we will not heed the lessons of history, the call of God, how glorious our future! Our nation derives from this epoch a new activity, which surpasses in breadth and intensity anything hitherto witnessed in human history. Great revolutions have ever been resurrection calls to the human mind. Starry constellations burst from the intellectual heavens, the clouds of revolution have cleared away. We are on the brink of discoveries and inventions, of industrial and commercial enterprises which will surpass in brilliancy the very dreams of the present generation. Our two is now rooted in the continent, which surpasses in breadth and intensity anything hitherto witnessed in human history. Great revolutions have ever been resurrection calls to the human mind. Starry constellations burst from the intellectual heavens, the clouds of revolution have cleared away. We are on the brink of discoveries and inventions, of industrial and commercial enterprises which will surpass in brilliancy the very dreams of the present generation. Our two is now rooted in the continent, which surpasses in breadth and intensity anything hitherto witnessed in human history. Great revolutions have ever been resurrection calls to the human mind. Starry constellations burst from the intellectual heavens, the clouds of revolution have cleared away. We are on the brink of discoveries and inventions, of industrial and commercial enterprises which will surpass in brilliancy the very dreams of the present generation. Our two is now rooted in the continent, which surpasses in breadth and intensity anything hitherto witnessed in human history. Great revolutions have ever been resurrection calls to the human mind. Starry constellations burst from the intellectual heavens, the clouds of revolution have cleared away. We are on the brink of discoveries and inventions, of industrial and commercial enterprises which will surpass in brilliancy the very dreams of the present generation. Our two is now rooted in the continent, which surpasses in breadth and intensity anything hitherto witnessed in human history. Great revolutions have ever been resurrection calls to the human mind. Starry constellations burst from the intellectual heavens, the clouds of revolution have cleared away. We are on the brink of discoveries and inventions, of industrial and commercial enterprises which will surpass in brilliancy the very dreams of the present generation. Our two is now rooted in the continent, which surpasses in breadth and intensity anything hitherto witnessed in human history. Great revolutions have ever been resurrection calls to the human mind. Starry constellations burst from the intellectual heavens, the clouds of revolution have cleared away. We are on the brink of discoveries and inventions, of industrial and commercial enterprises which will surpass in brilliancy the very dreams of the present generation. Our two is now rooted in the continent, which surpasses in breadth and intensity anything hitherto witnessed in human history. Great revolutions have ever been resurrection calls to the human mind. Starry constellations burst from the intellectual heavens, the clouds of revolution have cleared away. We are on the brink of discoveries and inventions, of industrial and commercial enterprises which will surpass in brilliancy the very dreams of the present generation. Our two is now rooted in the continent, which surpasses in breadth and intensity anything hitherto witnessed in human history. Great revolutions have ever been resurrection calls to the human mind. Starry constellations burst from the intellectual heavens, the clouds of revolution have cleared away. We are on the brink of discoveries and inventions, of industrial and commercial enterprises which will surpass in brilliancy the very dreams of the present generation. Our two is now rooted in the continent, which surpasses in breadth and intensity anything hitherto witnessed in human history. Great revolutions

## ZION'S HERALD AND WESLEYAN JOURNAL, FEBRUARY 7, 1866.

## MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT.

FROM OUR MISSION ROOMS AT NEW YORK.

Egypt.—Rev. J. M. Thoburn writes us from Suez,

Egypt, under date of Dec. 11:

"I am very sorry that I am obliged to date my letter here, when I had reasonably expected to do so in India; but the Red Sea steamer, which, of course, I could neither foresee nor prevent. I am now on board the *Rohna*, a very trim little steamer with a small, genteel American captain, who expect to leave the *Rohna* soon as she is in, three or four days hence. The expense of sending passengers by this line from Liverpool is £60 each. Boxes may be sent through from New York to Bombay for about one dollar per pound, with less trouble and the speed of the *Calecutta* route. Hurkna (the native youth) and myself are both very well, and enjoying to the full our stay in Egypt."

REV. PETER CARTWRIGHT.—This veteran writes to Dr. Crooks:

"I look upon this year, 1866, as the most eventful year that the American people ever saw, or perhaps ever will see. Those of us who may live to see the end of the century, will see the closing of the hundredth year of Methodism in America, a thing we have never seen before and shall never see again. This year our national government is to be reorganized, and a year may be provided for this year our Centenary offering is to be made to God; this jubilee, or fifty year of the Bible Society, for liberal contributions. What a work! O that God may prosper the cause and the mission with a liberal spirit, or a spirit of giving to the Lord! I know you say, 'Amen.'

"I say to the *Methodist preachers and members*, do not let the *missionary cause* cost you for any or all other cause, but let it cost you one cent, or even one cent. Make sure your missionary offering, and then give to those other objects as God has given to you. The endowment of the colleges is good; the building of the parsonages is good; the increase of the church fund, for the benefit of our poor worn out preachers, their widows and orphans, is good; but the *service of souls* is better than all these objects. The *service of souls* in Christ's cause, and how shall we preach except a preacher? and how shall those that are sent be supported? and how shall our tapers, our funds, our money, and woe be to the man or woman that withdraws from God, which he has just right to claim. Come, brethren, let us go to work; if you were not liberal before, try it for once, that a swelling out may go up to heaven in humble praise that God has blessed you with a liberal spirit. This year will try the very heart and soul of every Christian, and when it is over, But by grace the Lord shall have a part of what he has given me."

GERMANY.—Brother Jacoby writes in January to the Corresponding Secretary:

"Last Sabbath was in Wiesbaden, one of the principal towns in Hesse, where the Lord has revived his work, and where thirty members have been converted in two years. I bought a house for 600 thalers gold on permanent lease for 7 1/4 years, and the rent is 100 thalers. The rent of the neat chapel which seats one hundred persons. The Lord is reviving his work among us. We pray and wait for revival this winter."

FATHER TILLINGHAST AND HIS ANNUAL REPORT.

On the evening of January 25, in Allen Street Church, this Sunday School veteran presented his seventh Annual Report. A large congregation of the friends of the cause listened attentively, and were greatly encouraged. For several years the brethren have enlisted the aid of Father to report to them the current exertions of the church. This year they stated that owing to the health condition of their finances, it would not be necessary to raise a sum for the cause. More than half of their bills had been paid punctually. Our good friend, however, could not afford the opportunity to pass without making an effort to secure a sum for the good purpose, and so raised accordingly a sum of \$1,000, which was raised to increase our Sabbath School Library. A generous response was made, and \$65 was contributed promptly. By subscription \$200 had been raised previously for the same purpose. The sum of \$1,200, however, was most generously contributed himself. Let fervent prayer be offered that this venerable servant of God may be spared many years to cultivate his chosen field. The reader of the *Herald* I know will read the report with interest.

W. KELLEY.

Dear Friends,—We are permitted once more, by the mercy of our heavenly Father, to meet in this place to hear the seventh Annual Report of our efforts to establish the Sabbath School cause. A noble cause it is; most of us present, I presume, have now been converted to it. We are a little girl, then ten years old, speaking a beautiful hymn on the Bible Seven years since. Last July, while at the Western School, *Thompson's Island*, I was invited to a school in my home, in which head, which compelled me to cease from my labors for several months. This I mention as the cause of my report showing much less has been accomplished in the year than in the previous year. I feel as much interest in this year for the Sabbath and Mission Schools, and as much love for the little children and youth as I ever have.

REPORT.

One thousand dollars, \$1,000, more, has been provided, and from time to time has been appropriated to purchase the new Library and replenish the \$145.00 has been expended for 1200 Bible Testaments, 1200 Testaments, 1200 Bibles, and in all over 20,000 copies. The balance, \$500, has been given to clothe poor children, and to assist deserving poor persons, and to assist the cause of education for the poor. I have been in the schools six months in the last year, and addressed 109 schools, speaking 105 times; sixteen times I addressed children out of our city; all the rest was done in our city, and in vicinity. In the seven years past, I have been addressed, speaking 866 times; 4200 Testaments, Bibles, Gospels, hymns, tracts, and other good reading has been purchased, and the cause has been distributed in the Sabbath and Mission Schools, and supplied with libraries, or had their reprieved. Many poor children and others have been assisted; \$15,000 at least has been raised, and with some assistance now on hand excepted, has been distributed.

This we see what has been accomplished in seven years by the means of one little girl in speaking a hymn on the Sabbath School cause. During the past year I have enjoyed the pleasure of a very interesting interview. I found him a true Christian. He is very grateful to his friends for their exertions, and to his heavenly Father for sparing his life. I also found him a true friend. A very good friend to Obed, and others who needed words of encouragement, and to Sabbath Schools.

He was deeply interested in Obed Reynolds, and gave me the opportunity of conversing with him all the time the school year. This was a very interesting interview. I found him a true Christian. He is very grateful to his friends for their exertions, and to his heavenly Father for sparing his life. I also found him a true friend. A very good friend to Obed, and others who needed words of encouragement, and to Sabbath Schools.

My visit to East and West Bridgewater was very satisfactory. This was at West Bridgewater, \$100 for the local Sabbath School cause. The Baptists uniting with the Methodists, gave the best evidence of their unity by contributing liberally towards the library. My visit to South Boston was very satisfactory. Mr. M. C. Jones, of the Universalist and Congregational Schools, addressed all them, the latter in Boston. And as anything I heard, I should not have known but what Mr. Jones and Mr. M. C. Jones, Congregationalists, or Methodist, they all met from the hills and from the same. The Farm School visit was very satisfactory. I have made them visits, and do not know what accommodation doing good. Grace Church, Episcopal, Deacon Snow, Mission School, and Dr. Swan's, Congregational, of Providence, addressed me. I believe the schools are generally increasing in number, extent, and more especially since the war, many young men seem to be more interested than they were before they left their homes and entered the army.

SABBATH SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY AT

The sixth anniversary of the Mission Sabbath School of the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, was held at Mission Hall, Bunker Hill Street, on the evening of the 28th ult., the hall being completely filled, and many obliged to go away for want of room. This school was founded by the First Church, Dec. 9, 1860, in a loft of a stable, near Chelsea Bridge. This room was used for its first meetings for its purposes, and in July, 1863, the beautiful hall in which the school is now held was dedicated. Its average attendance has constantly increased, and the average attendance for the year ending 1864, was 142. At this time the First Church had a school and gave up its mission work. In January, 1865, the school was adopted by the Trinity Church, retaining its original and successful superintendent, Mr. Washington, and other officers, and many of its faithful teachers. There have been enrolled during the year 1865, 279 scholars, 29 teachers, 4 offi-

cers. Total 302. And the school (Jan. 1) numbers 36, School 109, and the other officers 10. Total 47, including general fourth, since the beginning of 1865. The average during the year was 155. Smallest number 112, largest 200. The general contributions were \$20,000. The Bazaar Society, which will be in the school have received \$92,55, which has been expended for shoes, &c., for poor children, and which, with other clothing given away, is estimated as worth \$250. Six conversions are noted, and a very encouraging state of religion now exists.

CENTENARY CONTRIBUTIONS UNSPECIFIED.

A question has been raised on the appropriation that is to be made of *unspecified* Centenary contributions. In the "Connectional Plan" appended to Dr. Stevens' Centenary volume, the following statement is made:

"It is earnestly hoped that there will be universal agreement to the principle that the plate collections, and all other contributions made in the connectional plan, shall be equally divided between the *Methodist* and *Local Funds*."

The implication here is that all *unspecified* contributions, made throughout the church, except those that are given to the public congregation, the connectional, and are to be paid over to the *Connectional Treasurers*.

But it has been questioned whether this is the proper use of the resolution of the Committee, on this point, passed at the adjourned meeting held in New York, which runs as follows:

"It is the sense of this Committee that half the proceeds of all cash collections in public congregations, and all other contributions not otherwise appropriated, be paid over to the *Connectional Treasurers*."

It was agreed to the plan in the General Conference, and the *Connectional Treasurers* could be better made by simply presenting to them the two channels of contribution, connectional and local, and stating that all the proceeds of the *Connectional Treasurers* were to be given for the *Connectional Treasurers*.

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The history of this resolution will explain its object.

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The Cleveland resolution of the General Committee fixed the channel in which all *unspecified* contributions should go. The New York resolution of the General Committee, however, did not refer to the *Connectional Treasurers* and contributions and contributions are concerned, and then give to those who make simply a *Connectional contribution*, with one specifying an object, do, in fact indicate a preference for the *Connectional Treasurers*.

JOHN MCCLINTOCK, P. H. BROWN, D. C. BROWN, C. C. NORTH, Central Centenary Committee.

U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

The fourth and last National Assembly meeting of the Christian Commission will be held in the Hall of the House of Representatives in the City of Washington, on Sabbath evening, February 11.

The meeting will be one of profound national Christian interest; and addresses will be delivered by prominent officers of the army and navy, ministers, statesmen and others.

The friends and supporters throughout the country are invited to be present.

Geo. H. STUART, Chairman.

PHYSIOLOGICAL LECTURES.—Dr. R. Hamilton, Professor of the Medical Institute at Saratoga Springs, will deliver free lectures before the Latimer Physiological Institute of Boston, at Worcester Hall, No. 16 Summer Street, on Thursday, Feb. 8, at 7 o'clock, P. M. Subject: Description of the Temporals, Mental, Motive, Vital, Nervous, their combination and influence in the formation of the body; to attend to collect one person, and the topic, of course, has led me to speak of the duty of our church in the future to all men. I have not yet had the mortification to find a man who does not go so far as and as earnestly as I do, and I reckon among those who hold to the doctrines of the New England Conference as expounded not long ago.

By the way, this Centenary celebration is beginning to acquire power among us. Our Conference committee of arrangements ordered the holding of Centenary district conventions, and I have already attended six of such conventions. At every one it was voted, with entire unanimity and with great enthusiasm, to attempt to collect one person, and the topic of course, has led me to speak of the duty of our church in the future to all men. The congregation seemed to throw their hearts and voices into the words and tunes.

The opening prayer was made by Rev. Dr. Durbin, and then an address by Hon. Secretary Harlan, of which the following is a sketch:

The church and its congregations, represented by the strength of the most Southerners of the ultra conservative Democratic party; at the breaking out of the rebellion many people really feared that Egypt would go with the South. But all that is now pretty well changed. Nowhere in the Union are there better patriots and more staunch anti-slavery men than here among the members of our own church. I cannot find words too strong with which to characterize the gulf of falsehood and the infamy of treason; and I cannot go too far in demanding equal rights and perfect justice for men of all colors and races. I have now been from home nearly three weeks, speaking nearly three times a day on our Centenary, and the topic, of course, has led me to speak of the duty of our church in the future to all men. I have not yet had the mortification to find a man who does not go so far as and as earnestly as I do, and I reckon among those who hold to the doctrines of the New England Conference as expounded not long ago.

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